2. City Context

The recreational needs of a community are intrinsically linked to the context that shapes the community. This includes the history of the City, the local economy, the demographic and population aspects of the citizens of the community, and the physical characteristics of the City. Recreation itself constitutes an integral part of the community and, as such, is key to the success and health of the entire City.

The physical features of a city determine its visual character and the way in which it is experienced. However it is the manner in which such features are celebrated, protected and respected by the community that determines the city's image and differentiates one city from another.

Well-shaded play area

The current image and character of Hurst may be described as a "shaded city well covered with trees." This is largely due to the many mature post oak (*Quercus stellata*), Pecan (*Carya illinoensis* – State tree of Texas) and other trees that are found throughout the City. Informal discussions with park visitors revealed that the very reason that the parks in Hurst are so well liked and favored over parks in some of the adjacent cities, is the presence of trees and abundance of shade in the parks, particularly in the children's play areas.
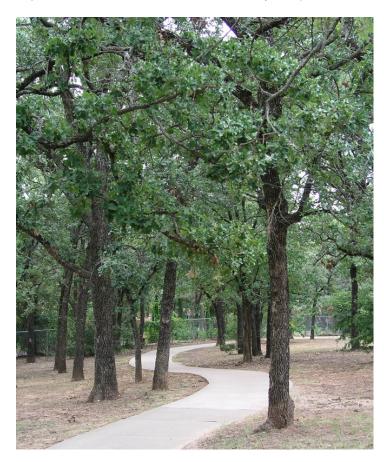
The importance of post oaks is well worth mentioning. Hurst was once completely covered with the ancient Cross Timbers vegetation type, which is dominated by low-stature, slow-growing and centuries-old post oaks. Many post oaks predate not only statehood, but also the birth of the United States. Two to four hundred year old post oaks survive in the Cross Timbers. In fact, post oak trees that average only 15" in diameter and 30' tall are typically in the 200- to 300-year age class. The oldest post oak tree ever found is only 20 feet tall, but careful tree-ring analysis indicates that it is over 400 years old. This tree is well and alive in the Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve at Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

The Cross Timbers are a complex mosaic of upland forest, savanna, and glade, which form the broad ecotone between the eastern deciduous forests and the grasslands of the southern Great Plains. The Cross Timbers ecosystem supports biodiversity, water quality, and a multitude of recreational opportunities.

The Cross Timbers have been largely cleared for cultivation or grazing and today survives only in a fragmentary pattern. What is left is further threatened by land clearing, suburban development, and the increased production of wood chip mills.

(Data source on Cross Timbers Ecosystem:
http://www.uark.edu/misc/xtimber/summary.html)

Mature post oak trees in Chisholm Community Park.

Another landscape element that adds to the image of the City is the topography change along the creeks and certain parts of the southern section of the City. The North Texas landscape is generally flat, and where such topographical change exists, it should be celebrated with parks, open spaces and overlooks to be enjoyed and experienced by everyone. Rickel Park is a good example of where the City has capitalized on this concept in a very sensitive manner.

Topography

Dramatic topographical change in Rickel Park.

The image of the City is further defined by the major thoroughfares that transect the City. For some visitors, these major roads are the only manner in which they experience or view the City of Hurst. Pleasing views from these roads to the surrounding landscape as well as roadside treatments and the marking of major intersections are all contributors to the image to Hurst.

Roadway infrastructure

Shade along Precinct Line Road.

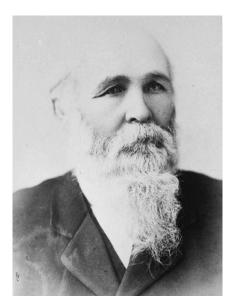*Shade provided by large and mature post oak trees along Brookside Drive.*

Another set of elements that is an essential part of the City of Hurst is its system of creeks, drainage ways and utility easements. These are largely untapped resources that have huge potential to be developed into valuable recreation space. Their linear character makes them ideal for trail linkages and access to natural areas.

Creeks, drainage ways & utility corridors

A view of the Little Bear Creek with the impressive Cottonbelt Railway Bridge and future Cottonbelt Trail in the background.

Daniel Arwine

2.3
Brief History of Hurst
(Source: Hurst website)

Hurst is one of the oldest communities in north central Texas. Settlement of Northeast Tarrant County began in 1850 when Isaac Parker built his log cabin home in what is now southwestern Hurst. After the Civil War, more settlers moved into the area and with them came the need for schools and churches. Daniel Arwine responded to this need by deeding six acres of land for the construction of a new school, church, and cemetery. All of the original development was located in what is now Hurst's Bellaire Subdivision.

In 1870, William L. Hurst moved into the area with his wife and seven children. This date is usually cited as the official establishment of Hurst. They settled approximately one mile north of the present Highway 10 (Hurst Boulevard). When the railroad came through the settlement in 1903, the local station was named Hurst's Station.

Homestead of Emerson Hurst, son of William L. Hurst

Hurst was established in 1870.

Later, growth in the small rural town slowed when east-west rail routes were changed and routed through Arlington rather than the Mid-Cities area. In 1949, Hurst had its first post office when the Souder Family added a postal station to the corner of their grocery store as a service to 1,000 residents.

The old Tarrant Train Station

Historic image of a 1922 girls' basketball team

Hurst incorporated as a general law city on September 25, 1952 and has operated under the current charter since 1956. Major contributors to the growth of the City include the Bell Helicopter plant and the construction of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport during the 1970's.

Hurst was incorporated in 1952.

Historic image of a men's basketball team.

An essential part of the master planning process is to understand the size and the characteristics of the population to be served.

When Hurst incorporated as a general law city on September 25, 1952, it had a total population of 2,700. During the next five years, the population increased to 5,700 and continued to grow to 31,000 by the year 1981. One of the main catalysts for this growth boom was the opening of the $3 million Bell Helicopter plant, which pioneered the helicopter aviation industry in Texas.

The advent of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in 1974 contributed dramatically to the growth of Hurst and the Mid-Cities area in the years to follow. The airport has become one of the area's major industries and employers, and has helped the economy by bringing in new development and industry that relies heavily on airport services. Current population for Hurst is approximately 37,100, and the average household income is just under $67,000.

Population

Projections and demographic characteristics contained in this section are derived from NCTCOG estimate adjusted from 2000 Census count and the 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary.

The City of Hurst's current and projected populations for purposes of this Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan are as follows:

Table 2.1 Current & Projected Populations for Hurst 2000-2030*		
Year 2000 Population*	36,496	≈ 36,500
Year 2005 Population (Current)**	37,124	≈ 37,100
Year 2010 Population (5 year projection)**	38,126	≈ 38,100
Year 2030 Population (Long term projection)*	39,637	≈ 40,000

* Data source: NCTCOG estimate adjusted from 2000 Census count
** Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Hurst is dominated by an adult population, as shown in Table 2.2 below.

Age of the Population

Table 2.2 Year 2000 Age Characteristics*	
Age	**Percent**
Toddlers	8%
Ages 5-20	22%
Ages 21-64	58%
Ages 65 and over	12%

** Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, census 2000 http://www.census.dfwinfo.com

The population, number of households and employment compares as follows:

Population, households & employment

Table 2.3 Hurst Population, Households & Employment 2000-2030*				
2000	**2005**	**2010**	**2020**	**2030**
Population 36,469	37,124**	37,362	38,067	39,637
Households 14,117	14,445**	14,601	15,082	15,649
Employment 19,123		22,580	24,977	26,156

* Data source: NCTCOG estimate adjusted from 2000 Census count
** Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Racial characteristics for Hurst are shown below. The U.S. Census Bureau considers race to be separate from ethnicity. Because the two are distinct concepts, persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Racial Characteristics

Table 2.4 Racial Characteristics – Year 2004-05*	
Race	Percent
White Non-Hispanic	83.0%
Hispanic	14.2%
Other	7.0%
Black/African American	4.7%
Two or More Races	2.3%
American Indian	0.7%
Asian	2.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Island	0.2%

*Source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

(Total can be greater than 100% because Hispanics could be counted in other races)

Ancestries: German (10%), English (8.84%), Irish (7.18%), United States (11.1%), French (2.2%), Scotch-Irish (2.4%).

Owner occupation is at 66% and value of housing is as follows:

Housing

Table 2.5 Hurst Value of Housing 2004-05*	
Over $60,000	93.4%
Over $100,000	64.7%
Over $150,000	24.5%

** Source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Household size, income and number of households:

Table 2.6 Hurst Household Size (2000*), Income and number (2004*)	
Average Household Size*	2.56 individuals
Average Household Income**	$66,625 per year
Number of Households**	14,445

*Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, census 2000 http://www.census.dfwinfo.com
** Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Education in Hurst

The educational attainment of persons in Hurst (25 years and older) during 2000* is as follows:

Table 2.7 Hurst Education Attainment 2000 and 2004	
High School*	26%
College Degree*	30.6%
Bachelors Degree**	18.1%
Graduate Degree**	6.5%

*Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, census 2000 http://www.census.dfwinfo.com
** Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Labor Force in Hurst

Table 2.8 Hurst Occupational Categories 2004*	
Sales and Office	31.4%
Professional and Related Occupations	19.1%
Management, Business, and Financial Operations	16.6%
Service	13.0%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	11.2%
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	8.5%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	0.1%

* Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Table 2.9
Hurst Business Employment by Type 2004*

Manufacturing	8,820
Retail Trade	7,872
Services	6,220
Finance-Insurance-Real Estate	1,393
Government	1,370
Construction	1,300
Wholesale Trade	695
Transportation, Communication/Public Utilities	569
Agriculture	79
Mining	31

* Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

Table 2.10
Hurst Occupational Classification 2004*

White collar	67.2%
Blue collar	19.7%
Service and Farm Workers	13.1%

* Data source: 2004 Claritas Inc. City of Hurst Executive Summary

The major employers in Hurst are as follows:

Hurst Employers

Table 2.11
Employers with highest numbers of employees in Hurst 2005*

Employer	Employees	Industry
Bell Helicopter Textron-Hurst	5,500**	Production
City of Hurst	500	Services
TCC-Northeast Campus	490	Educational
Dillards Dept. Store	400	Retail

* Data source: City of Hurst Planning Department
** This number include employees in the city of Fort Worth